

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-13 EA-11 AID-20

SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /134 W

----- 061002

R 251045Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1435

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CM, SU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIMEIRY

1. SUMMARY. SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRY PAID A CALM OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAMEROON AUGUST 21-23. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY BOTH NIMEIRY AND PRESIDENT AHIDJO AND THEIR JOINT COMMUNIQUE STRESSED THEIR SIMILAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SOLVING THE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF ACHIEVING NATIONAL UNITY THEIR TWO COUNTRIES HAD FACED. AHIDJO POLITELY TILTED MILDLY TOWARD THE ARAB SIDE IN STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WHILE NIMEIRY PLAYED THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION IN LOW KEY AND TALKED MORE OF AFRICAN SOLIDARITY. END SUMMARY.

2. SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRY ARRIVED AUGUST 21 IN YAOUNDE FROM IVORY COAST ON TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAMEROON. PRESIDENT ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER OFFICIALS. GURC CHURNED OUT PRE-VISIT PUBLICITY ABOUT SUDAN AND NIMEIRY, AND TURNED OUT USUAL CROWD AND DANCERS TO GREET VISITOR AT AIRPORT AND CHEER HIM ALONG ROUTE. FRIENDLY

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STATEMENTS BY BOTH PRESIDENTS AT ARRIVAL CEREMONY CONTAINED

USUAL PLATTITUDES AND LARGELY AVOIDED THIRD WORLD RHETORIC. NIMEIRY CALLED ON GOD TO GUIDE ALL THOSE FIGHTING FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION, MADE NO MENTION OF MIDDLE EAST.

3. AUGUST 22 PROGRAM INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS, MOTORCADE THROUGH CITY, VISIT TO UNIVERSITY, AND RELATIVELY SMALL OFFICIAL DINNER TO WHICH MINISTERS AND AMBASSADORS, A FEW OTHER DIGNITARIES AND SPOUSES WERE INVITED. BOTH PRESIDENTS PROPOSED LENGTHY TOASTS WHICH CLOSELY PARALLELED LANGUAGE AND CONTENT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED JUST PRIOR TO NIMEIRY'S DEPARTURE AUGUST 23 FOR NIGERIA.

4. COMMUNIQUE WAS MILDLY PHRASED DOCUMENT IN WHICH PRESIDENTS EXPRESSED IDENTITY OF VIEWS, CONFIRMED ATTACHMENT TO PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF UN, WELCOMED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD DETENTE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, ESPECIALLY NOTED THEIR DESIRE FOR RAPID RETURN OF TOTAL PEACE IN INDOCHINA, REAFFIRMED THEIR ATTACHMENT TO NON-ALIGNMENT, CONDEMNED COLONIALISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN AFRICA AND POWERFUL INTERNATIONAL COMPLICITY THEY ENJOYED, REAFFIRMED ATTACHMENT TO OAU CHARTER AND DETERMINATION TO SUPPORT AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, EXPRESSED DESIRE TO SEE AFRICAN UNITY RESULT IN MORE CONCRETE ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

5. COMMUNIQUE TOUCHED ONLY LIGHTLY ON MIDDLE EAST, TWO PRESIDENTS DEPLORED THAT ME SITUATION HAD SHOWN NO MARKED CHANGE AND REAFFIRMED CONVICTION THAT CONFLICT THERE COULD FIND PEACEFUL, JUST, AND DURABLE SOLUTION ONLY ON BASIS OF "PERTINENT UN AND OAU RESOLUTIONS, AND RECOVERY OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND EQUITABLE AND JUST RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

6. RE BILATERAL RELATIONS, COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED CREATION OF MIXED COMMISSION TO MEET PERIODICALLY TO STUDY ALL WAYS OF MULTIPLYING ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS AND ALL PROBLEMS RELATING TO COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ADHIDJO ACCEPTED NIMEIRY'S INVITATION PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SUDAN WITH DATE TO BE FIXED LATER.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE PROPER TRAPPINGS OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT BY A HEAD OF STATE WERE THERE, NIMEIRY'S VISIT HAD THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CALM RING OF THE ROUTINE ABOUT IT. PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE LAID MARKED STRESS ON NATIONAL UNITY, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF WHICH HAS BEEN THE TOPPRIORITY GOAL OF BOTH PRESIDENTS EACH OF WHOSE COUNTRIES HAD EXPERIENCED ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA. THEIR REMARKS ON AFRICAN SOLIDARITY AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS WERE STANDARD FARE. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AHIDJO STAYED WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF HIS PREVIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WITH PERHAPS A SLIGHT EXTRA TILT,

OUT OF COURTESY TO HIS GUEST, TOWARD THE ARAB POSITION (CITING
UN RESOLUTIONS IN GENERAL RATHER THAN UNSC RES 242 IN PARTICULAR,
AND SELECTING FOR SPECIAL MENTION THE RECOVERY OF OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES AND RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM ON PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE). NIMEIRY, FOR HIS PART, IN WISE TACTICS AND OUT
OF COURTESY TO HIS HOST, EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN
AFRICAM SOLIDARITY AND LIBERATION, AND WAS RESTRAINED ON
MIDDLE EAST.MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973YAOUND02910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730815/aaaaakmm.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIMEIRY
TAGS: PFOR, CM, SU, (NIMEIRY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005